

From: Jonas Minton [<mailto:JMinton@pcl.org>]
Sent: Monday, March 28, 2011 10:59 AM
To: Isenberg, Phil@DeltaCouncil; Macaulay, Terry@DeltaCouncil
Cc: Evon Chambers; troutnk@aol.com; breznick@pcl.org
Subject: Delta Plan Outline

Hi Phil and Joe.

Here is my recommendation for an outline for an engaging, readable Delta Plan. It tells the story addressing your responsibility to have a big picture, multi-decade plan all the way down to your regulatory actions in the first five years.

Inside cover page - One paragraph intro to the legislation followed by verbatim wording from the key section on co-equal objectives consistent with Delta as an evolving place. I do not recommend using the statute as the Plan's organizing structure. It is not how to tell the story. Also the plan is not the place where you need to justify each regulatory action. That will be done as part of the Office of Administrative Law process as well as any litigation.

What is the Delta and Why It is So Important - Multiple species, agriculture, number of residents, unique culture, hub of two water projects, other infrastructure (roads, railroads, transmission lines, gas storage,), etc.

Challenges/threats - Collapsing ecosystem, unreliable water supplies, contaminants, invasive species, flood threats, sea level rise, possibility of greater variations in volume, form and timing of precipitation and runoff, seismic risks, increased statewide population, continuing groundwater overdraft in areas receiving water from the Delta, pressure for residential development in the Delta secondary area. etc.).

Long Term Vision - Self sustaining populations of native fish and other desirable fish that spend all or some of their lives in the Delta, increased certainty on the amounts of water that can be safely diverted from the Delta, increased local and regional water self sufficiency with reduced reliance on water diverted from the Delta, healthy Delta economy based on sustainable agriculture.

How to Get There In the Long Run

- SWRCB adopt new Delta and upstream flow standards

- Reductions in contaminants

- Increased local and regional water self sufficiency including increased conservation, recycling, storm water capture, flood plain storage, groundwater cleanup and sustainable use, groundwater management, water use reporting, ocean water desalination when environmental impacts (e.g. entrapment, entrainment, high energy use) are eliminated.

- Some changes in conveyance

- Prioritized levee maintenance and upgrades

- etc.

First five year actions:

Regulations to be adopted by the Delta Stewardship Council
Recommendations to be carried out by others

Financing

First five years
Long term